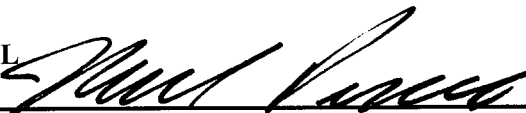


REPORT

DATE: December 14, 2006
TO: Energy and Environment Committee
FROM: Sheryll Del Rosario, Associate Planner, (213) 236-1879,
delrosar@scag.ca.gov
SUBJECT: Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Air Quality Chapter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Release for public review and input the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Air Quality Chapter preliminary outcomes, and direct staff to perform technical refinements.

SUMMARY:

The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Task Force is guiding staff in developing preliminary performance outcomes for each of the nine chapters included in the plan. At their October meeting, the task force recommended preliminary outcomes and strategies for the Air Quality Chapter. At this time, the task force and staff are asking for approval to initiate a public input and review process for the proposed outcomes and strategies.

BACKGROUND:

The development of the RCP has proceeded through several stages, including process design and approach, policy compilation and review, and development of preliminary action plans. The process calls for the crafting of specific quantified performance outcomes as a central feature in each chapter. The outcomes represent the region's desired future position among a range of factors. Subsequent to defining these outcomes, the planning process will focus on crafting strategies to assure that the outcomes are achieved.

The RCP Task Force has recommended approval for the preliminary outcomes described in the attachment. Pending action from the Energy and Environment Committee, staff will seek input from cities, counties, sub-regions, other regions, and various other stakeholders and experts on whether these outcomes are appropriate, achievable, and a good representation of the policy priorities of the region.

Outcomes at this stage should be viewed as preliminary, and refinements will continue to be made based on input from stakeholders and based on technical considerations. Further, at the point when outcomes are developed for all chapters, staff will work with the Task Force to integrating outcomes and strategies across multiple plan topics.

In approximately six months, staff will present refinements to the outcomes and strategy along with the final draft of the chapter. The final RCP is scheduled to be adopted along with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in December 2007.

REPORT

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work performed for the Regional Comprehensive Plan is included in the current year SCAG Overall Work Program (07-025.scgs1) under Air Quality/Conformity.

Attachments:

Presentation

Draft Outline

Performance Outcomes and Strategy – Initial Proposal

Reviewed
by:



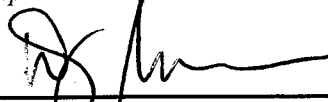
Division Manager

Affirmed
by:



Department Director

Affirmed
by:



Chief Financial Officer

SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan

Air Quality Chapter

Energy and Environment Committee
12.14.06



Activities

■ Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Task Force Updates

- May 22, 2006 → Draft chapter outline
- October 9, 2006 → Proposed outcomes and strategies

■ Preliminary Draft

- Available on the website



Policy Objective

**Minimize Adverse Air Quality Impacts
Resulting from Local Land Use
Decisions**



Performance Outcomes

- Outcomes are preliminary
- Additional refinements to be made
- Continue to work with RCP Task Force



Performance Outcomes

1. Implement Local Land Use Policies that Minimize Incompatible Land Use

Description:

- > Establish policies that minimize exposure of sensitive receptors

Proposed Quantified Outcome:

- > 100% of cities/counties and local land use agencies adopt and/or update policies in regulatory planning documents

Data Considerations:

- > Obtain information on region's general plans, zoning ordinances, land use permitting processes, etc.



Performance Outcomes

2. Reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per household

Description:

- > Reduction in mobile source emissions by reducing vehicle trips and VMTs through local and regional land use decisions

Proposed Quantified Outcome:

- > 10% reduction from current conditions

Data Considerations:

- > Development of benchmarking, program assessment, evaluation and monitoring guidelines for applicable local and regional land use decisions



Performance Outcomes

3. Decrease the Region's Consumption of Fossil Fuels; Increase Percentage of Alternative/Renewable Fuels

Description:

- Reduce fossil fuel use and increase percentage of alternative/renewable fuel uses by both transportation and residential/industrial users

Proposed Quantified Outcome*:

- 20% reduction from current conditions in fossil fuel use
- 20% increase from current conditions in use of alternative/renewable fuels

Data Considerations*:

- Staff will work with the designated energy consultant and regulatory agencies, such as California Energy Commission (CEC), Southern California Edison (SEC), etc.

*Consistent with Energy Chapter



Proposed Strategies

Develop Air Quality Elements Applicable to General Plans, Zoning Ordinances, and Design Standards

- Development of a set of air quality policies/strategies applicable to regulatory planning documents, such as general plans, zoning ordinances, and design standards



Proposed Strategies

Follow CARB/AQMD Guidance for Land Use Decisions


- Utilize the policy recommendations contained in:
 - CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*
 - AQMD's *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning*



Proposed Strategies

Implement Compass 2% Strategy


Continued collaboration on planning and development of key strategic growth areas identified in the Compass 2% Strategy

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Proposed Strategies

Develop Air Quality Improvement Criteria for Developmental Approval


Minimum environmental requirements for developmental approval (e.g. tree planting, lighter-colored roofs and paving, bike lanes, minimum transit availability, etc.)

 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Proposed Strategies

Enhance Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Pursuant to CEQA

Enhanced monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure compliance with mitigation measures during project construction and implementation

 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

Proposed Strategies

Strategies to Address Global Warming

- Consideration of Assembly Bill 32: Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and other global warming initiatives undertaken in the SCAG region
- Proposed RCP strategies intend to complement global warming initiatives



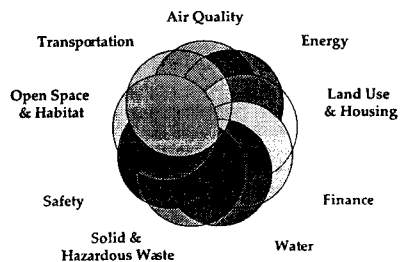
Proposed Strategies

Financial Mechanisms


- Continue efforts to develop financial mechanisms to support performance outcomes and strategies
- Examples: Pollution surcharges, user fees, container fees, etc.



Interconnections



Questions & Comments

 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

DRAFT AIR QUALITY CHAPTER OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Brief synopsis of key issues
- b. Brief description of what will be presented in the chapter

II. EXISTING SETTING AND CONDITIONS

- a. Environmental Setting
- b. Climate and Meteorology
- c. Existing Air Quality within the SCAG Region
- d. Regulatory Environment
 - i. Federal
 - ii. State
 - iii. Local
- e. Air Quality Plans and Program
- f. Non-Attainment Areas within the SCAG Region
- g. State Implementation Plans/Transportation Conformity

III. EXISTING PLANS AND POLICIES

- a. Existing Plans
 - i. 2004 RTP/RCP Program EIR
 - ii. County Plans
 - iii. Subregional Plans
- b. Existing Policies
 - i. 1996 SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG)
 - ii. Regional Growth Vision
 - iii. Resolutions

IV. KEY ISSUES

- a. Key Issues
 - i. Description of key issues
 - ii. Description of Recommended Strategies to address key issues
- b. Analysis of Implications of Regional Growth Vision

V. ACTION PLAN

- a. Legislative Strategy
- b. Mitigation Strategy
- c. Analysis of Implications of Regional Growth Vision

VI. PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

- a. Policy Objectives
 - i. Minimize adverse air quality impacts resulting from local land use decisions
- b. Performance Outcomes
 - i. Compliance with existing legal requirements
 - ii. Minimize health effects of incompatible uses
- c. Recommended Strategies
 - i. Adopt/amend air quality chapter for General Plan
 - ii. Follow CARB/SCAQMD Guidance for land use decisions
 - iii. Employ Compass 2% strategies
 - iv. Enhance mitigation monitoring and reporting pursuant to CEQA
 - v. Adopt air quality criteria for development approval (e.g., transit, vehicle-miles traveled, energy conservation, greenhouse gases, etc.)

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN Air Quality Chapter

Performance Outcomes and Strategy – Initial Proposal

DESCRIPTION: The initial performance outcomes and strategy included in this proposal were approved by the RCP Task Force. Action by the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) would direct staff to make technical refinements, and to seek input and participation from stakeholder and interested parties. At the conclusion of this public participation phase (approximately 6 months), staff will make a final proposal to the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Task Force, EEC, and the Regional Council (RC).

The Performance Outcomes will be the central feature of each RCP Chapter. They establish the goals for the plan, and define the region's values across the range of planning and resource categories covered by the plan. Outcomes should be ambitious but achievable. In some cases, outcomes will be consistent with various requirements in established regional planning processes. In these cases, the RCP outcome will be at least as stringent as the existing requirement.

Outcomes at this stage should be viewed as preliminary, and refinements will continue to be made based on input from stakeholders and based on technical considerations. Further, at the point when outcomes are developed for all chapters, staff will work with the RCP Task Force to integrate outcomes and strategies across multiple plan topics.

AIR QUALITY CHAPTER POLICY OBJECTIVE:

Air pollution is a regional problem. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Air Resources Board (ARB), and the local air quality management districts are the main agencies with legal mandates to protect the public from exposure to air contaminants, including both regional air pollutants and localized air toxics. These agencies have adopted comprehensive air quality regulations and related programs to achieve improved air quality and reduce air contaminant exposure risks. SCAG also has ongoing planning efforts intended to improve air quality such as the Regional Transportation Plan, Goods Movement Program, and Compass 2% Strategy. With the intention of complimenting these existing programs, the RCP air quality chapter's policy objective is to minimize adverse air quality impacts resulting from local land use decisions.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES:

1. Outcome: Implement local land use policies that minimize incompatible land uses

- a) **Description:** Establish policies that minimize exposure of sensitive receptors and sites (e.g. schools, hospitals, and residences) to major sources of air pollution, specifically diesel particulate matter (PM) emissions, such high-traffic freeways and roads, rail yards, ports, and industrial facilities.
- b) **Initial Proposed Quantified Outcome:** 100% of cities/counties and local land use agencies adopt and/or update policies in general plans, zoning ordinances,

business licensing, and related land use permitting processes that address potential adverse health risks associated with incompatible land uses.

- c) **Data considerations:** Obtain information on general plan, zoning, business licensing, and land use permitting processes data from all cities and counties in SCAG region must be obtained and analyzed.

2. Outcome: *Reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per household*

- a) **Description:** Reduce mobile source emissions by reducing vehicle trips and VMTs through local and regional land use decisions that consider balanced and efficient growth and transportation patterns.
- b) **Initial Proposed Quantified Outcome:** 10% reduction from current conditions (consistent with proposed goals in Land Use and Housing Chapter)¹.
- c) **Data considerations:** Development of benchmarking, program assessment, evaluation and monitoring guidelines for applicable local and regional land use decisions.

3. Outcome: *Decrease the region's consumption of fossil fuels; increase percentage of alternative/renewable fuels*

- a) **Description:** The region's goal should be to reduce fossil fuel use and increase percentage of alternative/renewable fuel uses by both transportation and residential/industrial users.
- b) **Initial Proposed Quantified Outcome:** (consistent with proposed goals in Energy Chapter).
 - 20% reduction of fossil fuel use from current conditions²;
 - 20% increase in use of alternative/renewable from current conditions³
- c) **Data considerations:** Staff will work with the designated energy consultant and regulatory agencies, such as California Energy Commission (CEC), Southern California Edison (SEC), and etc.

PROPOSED STRATEGIES:

- **Development of air quality elements for general plans, zoning ordinances, and design standards**

SCAG will develop a set of air quality policies/strategies applicable to different types of regulatory documents, such as general plans, zoning ordinances, and design standards. General plans and zoning ordinances can be used to minimize incompatible land uses by incorporating air quality considerations into these documents.

¹ 10% is proposed as an aggressive initial proposal. Can be scaled in accordance with input and scenarios considered for the RTP.

² 20% is proposed as an aggressive initial proposal. Can be scaled in accordance with input and scenarios considered for the RTP. Staff will continue to work with the energy consultant on this issue.

³ 20% is proposed as an aggressive initial proposal. Can be scaled in accordance with input and scenarios considered for the RTP. Staff will continue to work with the energy consultant on this issue.

- **Follow CARB/SCAQMD Guidance for land use decisions**
Utilize the policy recommendations contained in the California Air Resources Board's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* and the South Coast Air Quality Management District's *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning*. These guidance documents provide a comprehensive examination of land use policies as they relate to air quality and community health, including suggested land use policies and strategies for improved decision-making.
- **Implement Compass 2% Strategy**
SCAG will continue working with individual jurisdictions to collaborate on planning and development of key strategic growth areas identified in the Compass 2% strategy. Specifically, SCAG will:
 1. Continue initiating Compass demonstration projects in critical growth opportunity areas.
 2. Target local governments to align their plans with the Compass Vision.
 3. Provide local governments, subregions and transportation commissions with inter-regional partnership program tools.
 4. Conduct extensive public education, training and outreach program.
 5. Establish benchmarking, program assessment, evaluation and monitoring guidelines.
- **Develop air quality improvement criteria for development approval**
This strategy intends to require minimum environmental requirements for developmental approval (e.g. tree planting, lighter-colored roofs and paving, bike lanes, minimum transit availability, etc.). These requirements are linked to development approval and are required prior to CEQA mitigation measures.
- **Enhance mitigation monitoring and reporting pursuant to CEQA**
The existing CEQA Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting requirements are intended to ensure compliance with mitigation requirements identified in Environmental Impact Reports. Enhanced monitoring and reporting procedures should be adopted to ensure compliance with mitigation measures during project construction and implementation.
- **Strategies to Address Global Warming**
The RCP will consider Assembly Bill 32: Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), signed by Governor Schwarzenegger and other global warming initiatives undertaken in the SCAG region to address the issue of global warming. The strategies proposed for air quality, energy, and land use/housing in the RCP will complement the adopted and proposed statewide and regional global warming strategies.

- **Financial Mechanisms**

SCAG will continue efforts to develop financial mechanisms that provide monies to develop infrastructure while achieving the outlined performance outcomes and recommended strategies (e.g. pollution surcharges, user fees, container fees, etc.)